

Child Born Out of Wedlock to a U.S. Citizen Father

U.S. citizenship is based on a blood, not just legal, relationship to a U.S. citizen parent. If a child is born out of wedlock to a U.S. citizen father, the child can become a U.S. citizen.

How Does My Child Become a U.S. Citizen?

In order for your child to become a citizen, you must submit the following documents to the U.S. Embassy or consulate in Japan:

- Form DS-2029, Application for a Consular Report of Birth, along with the fee (US\$65).
- Proof of your U.S. citizenship. This can be your birth certificate, citizenship or naturalization certificate, a consular report of birth, or a valid or expired passport (issued within the last 15 years). You must provide an original.
- Proof of your child's birth. The preferred document is the Japanese *Shusshou Todoke Kisai Jiko Shomeisho*, issued by the ward or city office. The *Shusshou Todoke Juri Shomeisho* and *Koseki Tohon* are only accepted if they include the child's and parents' full names, the date and place of birth and the seal of the ward or city official who certified the document. The birth certificate issued by the Japanese hospital is not acceptable. English-language birth records/documents are only accepted when issued by the U.S. military hospital in Japan where the baby was actually delivered.
- Proof that you are the child's biological father. This can be either a written statement by you acknowledging paternity, or a legitimation decree under the law of your child's residence, not yours, or a court adjudication of paternity before your child turns 18.
- A written agreement that you will financially support you child until your child turns 18.

In addition, you, your child, and the child's mother must all go to the Embassy or consulate for an interview with a consular officer. The consular officer may ask for some additional information, including:

- Evidence of your physical presence in the U.S. for at least five (5) years before your child was born. At least two of these years must have been after your fourteenth birthday, and time spent overseas in the U.S. military or government, or as a dependent of U.S. military or government personnel, count as physical presence in the U.S.



- Evidence that you and the child's mother were physically present in the same location at the time of conception. Such evidence might include passports, military travel orders, leases, etc. In some complex cases, they may request a blood or DNA test.

If your child's mother is Japanese, the birth records may only list a Japanese name for your child. If you want your child's documents to be issued in an American name, you can fill out an Affidavit of the Newborn Child's Name and sign it at the Embassy or consular office.

For more information, contact the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, at:

1-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420 JAPAN
U.S. mail address: APO AP 96337-5004 USA
(03) 3224-5000 (general switchboard)
(03) 5354-4033 (visa information)
<http://tokyo.usembassy.gov>

Child Born out of Wedlock to a U.S. Citizen Father is distributed by the Camp Zama Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 101, Room CE209. You may call us for an appointment at DSN 263-4698/commercial 046-407-4698.